

E-discussion on YOUTH – summary of preliminary results

Day 7:

What experiences are available of VSD interventions in the context of broader programmes and strategies that combine skills development and with other objectives, such as local (community) and/or business development, health promotion or violence prevention, housing or others? Which examples for integrated joint projects do exist?

In *Honduras* the urban development program CONVIVIR addresses young people in deprived urban areas of three municipalities of Honduras with the objective to prevent violence and crime. The program improves the physical infrastructure in particular for youths in its target areas: parks, recreation and sport facilities, youth centres etc. by following the “crime prevention through environmental design” (CPTED) approach. Since program planning and implementation is strictly participatory the young people are involved from start of each single project realized under the program. In order to empower them for active participation the program followed a youth work approach by training local youth leaders and organizing events and leisure time activities to get access to them and stimulate their active involvement. Furthermore, skills development activities were carried out and young people were temporarily involved in construction works. The premises established or rehabilitated in the framework of the program are used to provide multifold services to local youth: health advice, career counselling, skills development courses, leisure time and sport activities etc.

VET domain of SDC *Mongolia* supports the existing public TVET system from different angles. To improve employability of youth, interventions include classical TVET approach, human rights-based approach (HRBA), life skills education and support to youth businesses/start-ups. It is quite cumbersome to pack everything in one project, however if it is well planned, managed and monitored and thus you can have a quite coherent portfolio/domain, which consists from different projects. In order to improve coordination of “own” projects with those of other donors/partners, SDC Mongolia regularly organised “domain meetings” to monitor the “domain synergy plan” implementation, now under redefinition in line with the new dispatch on Basic Education and Vocational Training.

In *Kyrgyzstan* a new Helvetas project (currently in its planning phase) will aim to empower youth to find their personal and professional purpose in life and increasing peaceful, public discourse and exchange on religion and democracy. The project shall combine life skills training (based on intercultural education) for youth with inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues for youth and adults. In order to provide youth with a real platform to express themselves and be heard, the project will also work with adults as advocates for the youth among the adults, and will train them as youth coaches, in order to address the huge intergenerational gap, which has been identified by youth as one of the main problems causing the youth’s sense of disorientation, which makes them feel attracted by extremist rhetoric.